

## PRESIDENT TO ASK FOR NATION'S O. K.

Advisers Regard It as Imperative That He Stump in Congress Campaign.

### HIS POLICIES SUPREME ISSUE

Continued Majority in Congress Essential to Future of the Administration.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Washington, March 20.—The Washington Evening Star of to-day prints the following political story:

Suggestions that the President may visit Alaska this summer to inspect personally the work that will then be in progress in government-aided railroad construction, and make a few political speeches on his way across the continent, are met with intimations that Mr. Wilson is not much of a traveler. He also said he does not care for traveling for the sake of the pleasure of it, would lose too much time in going to Alaska, and is willing to leave the handling of things there to Secretary Lane, who will go to Alaska during the summer, in all probability.

That the President is deeply interested in Alaska is indicated by the fact that in leisure moments he is studying maps of the country, and going over the routes proposed for construction of the roads. He wants to know as much as he can about the proposed work and the country, so that he will be familiar with all the phases as they come up.

As to political speeches late this summer and this fall, those close to the President are confident that he cannot avoid appearing before the people, as already foreseen in the Star.

**Administration the Issue.** His administration will be the issue—the new tariff bill, alleged lack of prosperity, the canal tolls question and many other things. To be able to continue his success in legislation, the President must have Congress with him after March 4. With either branch against him his days of putting through the measures will be over. Bickering, political maneuvering and fighting will characterize the balance of his term in the White House. To Mr. Wilson, therefore, the campaign this fall means everything to his party and himself.

His presence in the campaign with his recognized ability in handling and shaping the thoughts of the people, is deemed imperative. He must and will respond to the call in the opinion of his friends and advisers to-day.

There are a good many things ahead to pester the President, it was said to-day. His hope that Congress will adjourn early and give the party a chance to frame its fight before the people is sure to be disappointed, according to news from the Capitol. There it is said that adjournment is an impossibility.

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before some time in July and quite likely in August. June 15, the time tentatively fixed, is fading away. The attacks upon the President point the way to what may be expected in the fall campaign, and the whole outlook is for a mighty busy year for Mr. Wilson.

**Prosperity to Show Up.** The President is confident that better conditions are going to prevail in the business world within the next few months, and continuously from then on, thereby insuring the Democratic policy of annihilation to fight the Republican cry of depressed conditions, all due to Democratic rule. The President frankly admits that the railroad situation in the country is a menace, politically and financially. He has abstained from hitting the Interstate Commerce Commission that it ought to increase freight rates for Eastern roads, but he has come as near as a man can to doing so by candidly agreeing with callers that the condition of the roads can be materially bettered through more liberal policies in some directions. When he has been consulted by members of the commission he has frankly laid before them letters and material bearing upon the increased rate proposition.

Fully aware that "the big thing" in the business world now is an administration tone of helpfulness to the roads working within the law, the President is willing, according to what he has told friends, to lend any agency within his power toward giving the necessary push toward better times.

**Increase Expected.** The President is extremely confident that the Interstate Commerce Commission will grant the proposed increase in rates, and this is expected to restore a moral tone and confidence to the business world. It has not possessed lately, thereby starting a general outcry among financiers. The danger in the decision of the commission, however, is said to be that the increase will not be a flat one, but that there will be grading increase in some classes and absolute refusal in others, leaving the roads little better off financially, and still much in the dark as to what to expect in the future.

**No Sure Thing on House.** An able political mathematician to-day pointed out that there are sixty-seven Democrats in the House who will be elected by a minority vote in November, D.C.

They were elected by a majority vote in the House, and the election of several new Republicans in the House, or Republicans and Democrats, would give the House to the opposition. It is practically settled by Republican leaders that they will make the House a Democratic one. Whatever money they can raise will be used against the Democrats in districts where they are in the majority. President Taft and all the big guns will be upon the stump, and the main stock of their arguments will be the fact that the Democrats must hold the House if the party is to stay in power.

It is the view of the majority of Democrats that the ascendancy of the Senate must be maintained in the Senate, but there the Democrats appear to have a distinct advantage. The House of Representatives is in the hands of the Democrats, and the Democrats have a good chance to increase their numbers in the upper body of Congress. The prospects are that they will gain a number of seats, according to the situation at this time, presuming the Democrats have an average run of luck in November.

The President will want to aid Democratic nominees for the Senate and practically will be compelled to make some speeches to help them along. Representative Palmer, of Pennsylvania, will look for assistance in his campaign against Penrose and Shively, of Indiana, for instance, may ask for help from the White House.

**Senate Seats.** The terms of thirty-one Senators expire March 4 next, and there are two vacancies from death to be filled in November elections. A survey of the expiring terms gives an idea of the advantage the Democrats have.

Bradley, Republican, Kentucky; sure Democratic gain.  
Brady, Republican, Idaho; no Republican gain.  
Brandegee, Republican, Connecticut; no Republican gain.  
Bristow, Republican, Kansas; no Republican gain.  
Burton, Republican, Ohio; probable Democratic gain.  
Chamberlain, Oregon; possible Republican gain.  
Clarke, Democrat, Arkansas; no Republican gain.  
Crawford, Republican, South Dakota; no Republican gain.  
Cummings, Republican, Iowa; no Republican gain.  
Dillingham, Republican, Vermont; no Republican gain.  
Fletcher, Democrat, Florida; no Republican gain.  
Gallinger, Republican, New Hampshire; no Republican gain.  
Gore, Democrat, Oklahoma; no Republican gain.  
Grover, Republican, North Dakota; no Republican gain.  
Jones, Republican, Washington; no Republican gain.  
Newlands, Democrat, Nevada; no Republican gain.  
Overman, Democrat, North Carolina; no Republican gain.  
Pendergast, Republican, Pennsylvania; no Republican gain.  
Perkins, Republican, California; no Republican gain.  
Root, Republican, New York; no Republican gain.  
Sherman, Republican, Illinois; no Republican gain.  
Smith, Democrat, Indiana; possible Republican gain.  
Smith, Democrat, South Carolina; no Republican gain.  
Smith, Democrat, Georgia; no Republican gain.  
Smith, Democrat, Maryland; no Republican gain.  
Smith, Democrat, Arizona; no Republican gain.  
Smoor, Republican, Utah; no Republican gain.  
Stephenson, Republican, Wisconsin; no Republican gain.  
Stone, Democrat, Missouri; no Republican gain.  
Thomas, Democrat, Colorado; no Republican gain.  
Thornton, Democrat, Louisiana; no Republican gain.  
Georgia and Alabama will send Democrats to fill the vacancies from those States; no Republican gain.

It is thus seen that the Democrats are not sure of losing a Senator in a single State; that they are sure of gaining one in Kentucky; have good chances in Ohio, Pennsylvania, California and New York, and even in Illinois. The Democrats might lose in Indiana and Oregon.

Through Chairman McComb, of the Democratic National Committee, and Chairman Foreman, of the Democratic Congressional Committee, the President has been advised of the Senate and House outlook and something as to the line of attack of the Republicans and Progressives. The Democrats are not counting on the Progressives playing any conspicuous part in November, judging by the facts that are available.

## C. BASCOM SLEMP SUED FOR DIVORCE

Wife of Ninth District Congressman Charges Him With Desertion.



C. BASCOM SLEMP.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Big Stone Gap, Va., March 20.—The handsome young wife of Congressman C. Bascom Slemp, of the Ninth Virginia District, has filed suit in the Circuit Court of Wise County, seeking to be divorced from Mr. Slemp. Her counsel asks for divorce from bed and board, intending to ask later that the divorce be made absolute. Desertion is the specific ground alleged, it being set forth that they have not lived together for two years or more.

It was but little more than a year after their marriage when it is claimed, incompatibility of temperament caused friction which has finally resulted in the pending proceedings. Their only child is dead. The complainant does not ask for alimony in the present proceedings. Mrs. Slemp is represented by Powell, Price & Shelton, of Bristol, and J. F. Bullitt, of Big Stone Gap, while Mr. Slemp is represented by Judge E. M. Fulton, of Wise, Va.

The complainant prior to her marriage was a Miss Barton, daughter of a wealthy planter, at Barton, La., who is now dead. Mrs. Slemp makes her home with her mother at Barton, and has been there since the trouble, resulting in the estrangement of her husband. Mr. Slemp is one of the wealthiest men in Virginia, and is still comparatively young. Because of his great popularity among the people of Southwest Virginia, many have expressed surprise that he and Mrs. Slemp should not have lived happily together. It is not believed that Mr. Slemp will make strenuous defense to the proceeding.

Mr. Bullitt, speaking of the case, said: "It is the old story—incompatibility. The ground for the suit is desertion. Mrs. Slemp makes no other charge. Nor does Mr. Slemp make any charge against his wife. I have talked with him on the subject several times, and he always speaks of her in terms of highest respect."

### NAMESAKE OF BRYAN HAS PRIZE ORATION

Greensboro, N. C., March 20.—William Jennings Bryan Trull, of College, N. C., namesake of Secretary Bryan, to-night was awarded first prize of \$25 offered by the North Carolina Peace Society for the best oration on "Peace." His subject was "The Need of a Reign of Peace." B. Frank Pinn, Jr., of Davidson College, N. C., won second prize.

HE WAS A GOOD SPORT!  
THAT LITTLE FISH GRABBED THE FLY AND—ZING!  
AWAY HE WENT. BUT WHEN I PULLED HIM IN,  
AND HE SAW ME SMOKING A PIEDMONT HE JUST  
LAUGHED AND WIGGLED HIS TAIL. I GUESS HE  
KNEW I ALREADY HAD THE BIG "KETCH"—



## INTIMATE PICTURE OF PRESIDENCY IS DRAWN BY WILSON

(Continued From First Page.)

public the wink, as much as to say: "It is only me that is inside this thing. I know perfectly well that I will have to get out presently. I know that then I will look just my own pretty size, and that for the time being the proper persons are somewhat refracted and misrepresented to the eye by the large thing I am inside of, from which I am 'tipping' you this wink."

### The Weather

Forecast: For Virginia—Fair Saturday; Sunday increasing cloudiness, possibly followed by rain.

Special Local Data for Yesterday.  
12 noon temperature..... 26  
3 P. M. temperature..... 26  
Maximum temperature up to 8..... 26  
Minimum temperature up to 8..... 26

Local Observation 8 P. M. Yesterday.  
Temperature..... 27  
Humidity..... 47  
Wind-velocity..... 4  
Rainfall last twenty-four hours..... 1.08

CONDITIONS IN IMPORTANT CITIES.  
(At 8 P. M. Eastern Standard Time.)  
Place. Ther. H. T. L. T. Weather.  
Atlanta..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
Athens..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
Baltimore..... 28 32 24 Clear  
Boston..... 28 32 24 Clear  
Buffalo..... 28 32 24 Clear  
Calgary..... 28 32 24 P. cloudy  
Chicago..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
Cleveland..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
Dallas..... 28 32 24 Clear  
Denver..... 28 32 24 Snow  
Detroit..... 28 32 24 Rain  
Galveston..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
Hatteras..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
Havre..... 28 32 24 Clear  
Jacksonville..... 28 32 24 Rain  
Kansas City..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
Louisville..... 28 32 24 Clear  
Montgomery..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
New Orleans..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
New York..... 28 32 24 Clear  
Norfolk..... 28 32 24 Clear  
Oklahoma..... 28 32 24 Clear  
Pittsburgh..... 28 32 24 Clear  
Raleigh..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
St. Louis..... 28 32 24 Clear  
St. Paul..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
San Francisco..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
Savannah..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
Spokane..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
Tampa..... 28 32 24 Cloudy  
Washington..... 28 32 24 Clear  
Winipeg..... 28 32 14 Clear  
Wynneville..... 28 32 24 Clear

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**The Devil's Garden**  
By W. B. MAXWELL.  
It tells nothing about sex that should not be told.  
—Boston Transcript  
At all Bookstores. Price \$1.35 net  
THE BOBBS-MERRILL CO., Publishers

must give way to him. They must not sit down if he is standing up. It is a very uncomfortable thing to have to think of all the other people every time I get up and sit down. So that when I get guests in my house, and the public is shut out. I adjourn, being President, and take leave to be a gentleman.

They draw back and insist upon my doing something first, I firmly decline. There are blessed intervals when I forget by one means or another that I am President of the United States. One means by which I forget is to get a rattling good detective to get a good idea of the situation, get after some imaginary offender and chase him all over—preferably any continent but this—because the various parts of this continent are becoming painfully suggestive to me. The post-offices and many other things which stir reminiscences have "sickened them over with a pale cast of thought." There are post-offices where I would not think of mailing a letter, which I can't think of without trembling with the knowledge of what the heartburnings of the struggle there was in connection with getting somebody installed as postmaster.

**Always Personally Conducted.** "Now, if I were free, I would come not infrequently up to these rooms. You know I was in Washington but a few times in the last year, and I never expect to see the inside of the public buildings in Washington until my term is over. The minute I turn up anywhere, I am personally conducted to beat the band. The curators and the assistant curators and every other blooming official turns up, and they show me so much attention that I don't see the building. I would have to say 'stand aside' and let me see what you are showing me. Some day, after I am through with this office, I am going to come back to Washington and see it."

In the meantime, I am in the same category as the National Museum, the monument, the Smithsonian Institute, which I would not think of visiting. I know an exhibition appearance of some—apparently, I can assume other things—that do not show what is going on inside—I would like to have it pointed out, so that I could practice I could not look like the monument being regarded as a national exhibit. It would be much simpler than being shaken hands with by the whole United States.

And yet that is interesting to me, simply because I like human beings. It is a pretty poor crowd that does not interest you. I think they would have devoted itself to "expensive regard" pleasure, in order to be entirely uninteresting. They look so much alike they spend their time trying to look so much alike and so relieve themselves of all responsibility of thought, that they are very monotonous, indeed, to me.

### The Most Discussed Novel of the Year

**The Devil's Garden**  
By W. B. MAXWELL.  
The new year will be growing old before a better novel appears.  
—N. Y. Globe  
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look at, whereas, a crowd picked up off the street is just a jolly lot, a jolly lot of real human beings, pulsating with life, with all kinds of passions and desires. It would be a great pleasure if, unobserved and unattended, I could be knocked around as I have been accustomed to being knocked around all my life; if I could resort to any delightful quarter, to any place in Washington, that I choose.

**"I have sometimes thought of going to some customer's, some theatrical customer's, and buying an assortment of beads, rouge, and coloring like that of the known means of disguising myself, if it were not against the law. You see, I have a scruple as President against breaking the law, and disguising one's self is against the law, but if I could disguise myself and not get caught, I would go out, being an American citizen once more, and have a jolly time. I might then meet some of you gentlemen and actually tell you what I really thought."**

**President in Happy Mood.** The President talked entirely informally. He wore a sack suit, and stood with his hands in his pockets as he spoke. He was in a happy mood, and his remarks were constantly punctuated with laughter and applause. Mr. Wilson is member of the press club, before he became President. Members of the Cabinet, Speaker Clark and many officials also were guests of the newspapermen.

## PORTO RICAN BILL READY TO REPORT

Measure Prepared by Jones Grants Full Citizenship Into United States.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Washington March 20.—Congressman William A. Jones, of Virginia, chairman of the committee on Insular Affairs, this afternoon gave the report of the committee on the Porto Rican bill, and it will be unanimously reported favorably to the House in a few days. Hearings have been held on the bill, at which Secretary of War Garrison and Governor Yeager, of Porto Rico, were present.

The bill declares all the people of Porto Rico to be citizens of the United States, whereas they are now citizens of Porto Rico. It gives any Porto Rican the right, within six months, to declare that he does not desire American citizenship, whereupon he will be virtually a man without a country. It also gives the members of the committee to elect the members of both houses of the Legislature, whereas the members of the upper house are now appointed by the President.

Mr. Jones will next week introduce a bill for a new government of the Philippines, along lined giving them the fullest possible measure of self-government, consistent with continuation of American sovereignty, with

the definite promise of full and complete independence as soon as they have established a stable form of government.

## GREAT PROGRESS IN NEW HAVEN MATTER

Will Not Be Publicly Discussed Until Case Is Finally Settled.

Washington, March 20.—Secrecy surrounding the conference to-day between the attorneys of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad and the Department of Justice, was supposed to be the final meeting of the two boards continued from early morning until late to-night.

Other than the progress was being made, the attorneys for the Department of Justice refused to talk, representatives of the railroad company refused to talk, and it was understood that an agreement had been reached, not to publicly discuss the case until it was finally settled. However, it was learned that a full capitulation has been made by the railroad in matters pertaining to the severance of its trolley line holdings in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and Massachusetts.

Howard Elliott, chairman of the board of the trolley system, attended the morning session with his special attorneys, John W. H. Crim and Walker D. Hines. They were accompanied by a large number of the public utilities commissions of four New England States, showing the financial operations of their trolley system. It is understood an agreement was reached to sell out the trolley companies pay for improvements effected under the New Haven system. After that the trolley lines are to run on their own resources.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has alleviated matters for the Department of Justice by taking the question of separating a steamboat lines from the ownership and control of the railroad. The commission is authorized to do this under the Panama canal act.

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By W. B. MAXWELL.  
In its art it is a thousand leagues ahead of the many flimsy romances dealing with such subjects.  
—Chicago Tribune  
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